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# Advocate of Peace.

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## Baneful Prophecies of War.

We are having just now the usual crop of prophecies of war to which we are treated annually when the navy bill is under consideration at Washington. Our war folks are entitled to be considered double first cousins to their like in Great Britain who were recently, during the Parliamentary election, working the German scare for all that their fertile and unbridled imaginations could make of it.

Washington's birthday seems to have been taken advantage of by some of these war mongers to stir up excitement and thus promote, if possible, a greater army and a bigger navy. Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, said at Morristown, N. J., on the 22d of February, or is reported to have said, that "war between the United States and Japan is inevitable." Gen. J. Franklin Bell, in advocating, at New Haven, a larger military establishment, is reported to have predicted another war "within thirty years," just because we have had one that often in the past! Gen. Francis Greene, speaking on February 23 before the members of the Canadian Club at St. Catharine's, Ontario, declared that "the prospect of

war between Japan and the United States is a great deal more likely than official circles in the United States are willing to admit."

The mischief of these groundless predictions is that they tend to revive to some extent the jingo spirit in Japan, and that they make it more difficult to prevent extravagant military and naval appropriations at Washington. That was evidently their purpose, conscious or unconscious. But that they will have any very serious effect is not probable. War, at least, they will not bring any nearer than it was before. The "official circles in the United States" do not believe that there is any risk of war with Japan, and they have the best of means of knowing the real spirit of Japan. Official circles in Japan are just as assured that there will be no war between the two countries. Every wind that blows from the Orient brings us word that Japan is our unfaltering friend. The winds that blow from our shores to hers waft back the word that the American people, as a whole, are thoroughly loyal to the historic friendship between the two peoples, and that the pessimistic speeches of a few military and naval men — a very few — have no appreciable effect upon public sentiment.

There is one encouraging phase of the situation. These predictions of war are much less numerous than they were a year or two ago. Some of the noisiest of the war prophets have in considerable measure hushed up, having been unable, after four or five years of eloquent and frantic effort, to bring on the conflict which they were so sure was about to burst upon our western shore. Mr. Shaw and Generals Bell and Greene ought also to cease to prophesy. If they possessed a fair share of the best sort of modern patriotism, they would hesitate long before letting go reproachful words, the mischief of which, when directed against a brave and sensitive people, it is not easy to foretell. They ought to know that no war is inevitable in our time unless it is made so by injustice, falsehood and insolence. If the United States ever again fights another people, it will be, ninety-nine chances to one, because the dragons' teeth sown by such speeches as those which we have cited, have sprung up into armed men across the sea.

## The New England Peace Congress.

Arrangements for the Arbitration and Peace Congress for New England which is to meet at Hartford, Connecticut, May 8-11, are progressing rapidly. Dr.